

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 02349 241213Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----099748 241216Z /43

P R 241135Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7437
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2349

EXDIS

NAIROBI FOR AMBASSADOR BERGUS

DEPT PASS OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, UNSC, XF, SY, LE, IS
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: DEMARCHE IN SUPPORT OF UNIFIL

REF: STATE 126253

1. I WAS FINALLY RECEIVED MAY 24 BY UNDERSECRETARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS HASHIM OSMAN WHO KNEW IN ADVANCE THAT I WISHED DISCUSS UNIFIL. I WENT OVER POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL IN SOME DETAIL AND NOTED THAT SINCE WE RECEIVED IT ISRAELIS HAVE ANNOUNCED DATE BY WHICH WITHDRAWAL WILL BE COMPLETE.

2. OSMAN'S REACTION WAS SURPRISINGLY STRONG, AND EVEN HE DESCRIBED IT AS BLUNT AND UNDIPLOMATIC ALTHOUGH, HE SAID, IT
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WAS NATURAL. HIS BASIC ARGUMENT WAS THAT SINCE ISRAELIS WERE WITHOUT QUESTION AGGRESSORS, NO APPROACH ALONG LINES WE SUGGESTING COULD BE MADE TO PALESTINIANS UNTIL ISRAELIS WITHDREW COMPLETELY FROM LEBANON. HE SAID BLAME IS ON ISRAEL AND BURDEN IS ON THEM TO MOVE FIRST. OSMAN ADDED THAT ISRAELIS HAVE NOT RPT NOT ABIDED BY UNSC RESOLUTION THAT THEIR TROOPS WITHDRAW QUOTE IMMEDIATELY

UNQUOTE.

3. UNDERSECRETARY WAS NOT RPT NOT TOTALLY NEGATIVE IN SENSE THAT HE AGREED IF ISRAELIS WITHDREW AND THEN PALESTINIANS ATTEMPTED MOVE AGAINST UNIFIL A DIFFERENT SITUATION WOULD EXIST. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, EH SAID, SITUATION WOULD BE QUOTE CONDUCIVE UNQUOTE FOR SUDANGOV TO INTERVENE ALONG LINES REFTEL. OSMAN PROMISED BRING USG VIEWS ON UNIFIL TO ATTENTION FONMIN RASHID AL-TAHIR AND PRESIDENT NIMEIRI.

4. COMMENT: SUDANESE ARE AS OBJECTIVE AS ARABS CAN BE ON MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL ISSUES, BUT OUR DEMARCHE ON UNIFIL CLEARLY STRUCK RAW NERVE. FROM OSMAN'S POINT OF VIEW BLAME IS SO CLEARLY AND COMPLETELY ON ISRAEL THAT HE GENUINELY WONDERS HOW ANYONE CAN THINK OF PRESSING PALESTINIANS WHILE ISRAELIS REMAIN IN LEBANON. MOREOVER, HE WAS DEEPLY SKEPTICAL THAT ISRAELIS WOULD WITHDRAW DESPITE THEIR STATEMENTS. STILL, HE WAS NOT COMPLETELY INSENSITIVE TO POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL AS INDICATED BY HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT SUDANGOV MIGHT BE WILLING APPROACH PALESTINIANS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

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